

HCR-16-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 1:11:31 PM

Testimony for TCA on 4/13/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Hawai'i's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports HCR 16 HD 1.

We hope you all will support this resolution to honor the Ukrainians that have fought back against the illegal invasion of their country.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH



Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR 16
“REMEMBER UKRAINE DAY”

Hearing Date: April 13, 3 p.m.

To: The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee

From: Lara Palafox
Hawaii Stands With Ukraine

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

As the spokesperson for Hawaii Stands With Ukraine, I speak on behalf of the nearly 1000 members of our group to testify in **strong support** of HCR 16.

The devastation of lives, homes, land and infrastructure in Ukraine by the Russian government and its military is well-documented. The financial, psychological and physical toll continues to deeply affect Ukrainians both in Ukraine and in Hawaii.

Hundreds of Ukrainians in Hawaii live daily with news of death and injury to friends and loved ones. Yet, with no end in sight, they still maintain hope and a fierce determination to oust the Russian invaders and to provide as much emotional and financial support as possible to those fighting for their lives in Ukraine.

HCR 16 is important in that it shows solidarity with Ukraine and provides hope for all Ukrainians both in Ukraine and those living here in Hawaii. We believe that while we enjoy freedom here, we also have a moral obligation to use our fortunate disposition to help those suffering in Ukraine.

Furthermore, that this war in Ukraine could affect all of Europe and therefore economically, politically and strategically affect the U.S. is not some alarmist “slippery slope” argument from a journal of rhetoric. It has already been, and is, happening.

That atrocities committed by the Russian military at the behest of Russia’s president are happening is a fact. The world, with all of its ubiquitous media speculation and

commentary cannot be just a spectator. Those who have the power to help Ukraine, must help. We must take a stand at this pivotal time in history.

Philosopher John Stuart Mill, who delivered an 1867 inaugural address at the University of St. Andrews stated:

“Let not any one pacify his conscience by the delusion that he can do no harm if he takes no part, and forms no opinion. Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing.”

Please support HCR 16 and continue to support Ukraine.

Mahalo for your support.

Lara Palafox
Hawaii Stands With Ukraine

HCR-16-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 12:50:17 PM

Testimony for TCA on 4/13/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abby Simmons	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and esteemed members of the Committee,

My name is Abby Simmons and I'm providing testimony in **strong support** of HCR 16.

The world has been in shock as Russian Troops and mercenaries illegally invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022. We have all seen the news, read the reports of atrocities committed by the Russian forces on the innocent non-combatant civilian population. There is significant volume of evidence documenting war crimes and crimes against humanity. World leaders have recognized that the targeted, planned and organized killings of civilians has been so systemic that it amounts to genocide. Russia's leader Putin is even wanted by the ICC for war crimes.

This testimony could be filled with pages and pages of relevant facts and evidence that I believe the Committee is already were of.

Therefore, as a non-Ukrainian resident of Hawai'i, I ask this committee to stand in unanimous support of this resolution, to show our solidarity as a people, opposed to tyranny and genocide.

I am deeply thankful and proud of our elected representatives in both the House and Senate who already have shown so much support over the last year, displaying the Ukrainian flag on the doors to their offices. I'm also very thankful to all the residents of this state who have shown so much support and compassion to the Ukrainian Community.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Abby Simmons

Honolulu

HCR-16-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 12:26:47 PM

Testimony for TCA on 4/13/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Simmons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Honorable members,

I strongly support HCR16 in establishing a date for Hawaii to honor and recognize the unjust invasion of Ukraine by Russia and stand in solidarity with its peoples.

Thank you!

Sarah Simmons

Moanalua

Testimony of Danny de Gracia, II in strong support of H.C.R.16 H.D.1
“Proclaiming February 24, 2023 as ‘Remember Ukraine Day in Hawaii’”

to be heard before the Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Thursday, April 13, 2023
3:00 p.m., Conference Room 224

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, Honorable Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HCR16 HD1. **As the author of the Hawaii Government Employees Association (“HGEA”) Resolution 1 referenced in these resolutions and were adopted unanimously at the 2022 HGEA General Assembly, I am grateful that we have the opportunity to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine as they continue to fight for freedom against Russian invaders.**

One of the most common questions asked whenever resolutions like these are heard at the Hawaii State Legislature is “Why should the people care about something so far away, that has no immediate bearing on the livelihood of the ordinary Hawaii resident?” My response to that is that, in truth, the war in Ukraine affects us all because the precedent that will be set by what we do or fail to do as the free world has implications for the safety and security of every single one of us.

During the early 1970s, there was a concern that the Soviet Union was becoming increasingly effective at forcing the West into a “salami strategy” in which the United States or the United Kingdom, forced with the threat of nuclear retaliation, would slice off its friends and interests one by one until no friends or interests were left to support.

Russia’s current president, Vladimir Putin, as a former KGB agent during the Cold War understands this tactic well, and forced the United States into a salami strategy for the last 20 years. The invasion of Ukraine is the first time that the West has truly pushed back against Putin’s strategy of dividing allies and undermining the West. To be blunt, Mr. Chairman, we must morally *and* militarily defeat Putin in Ukraine to prevent not only him from repeating this type of aggression elsewhere in the world, but also, to discourage the People’s Republic of China from employing a similar playbook against Taiwan.

In truth, the war in Ukraine is not going well for the people of Ukraine. Misinformation spread by Russian propagandists and, unfortunately, ignorant Americans, continues to abound on the internet and on social media. Russia, though it has been hit hard by sanctions, has escalated the conflict with the acquisition of new weapons from North Korea, Iran, and the People’s Republic of China, which it is using to deadly effect against civilian population centers. What Russia cannot achieve against the highly disciplined and thoroughly motivated Ukrainian defenders on the battlefield, it seeks to inflict as vengeance upon the elderly, the infirm, women, and children with indiscriminate missile and artillery strikes against parks, apartment complexes, supermarkets, schools, and even hospitals.

I do not mean to pressure you, but I wish for this Committee to understand the time sensitivity of our need to act. In the very short time since the House of Representatives adopted H.R. 19 and transmitted H.C.R. 16 to your chamber, thousands more civilians have been killed or severely injured. To understand the human weight of this ongoing tragedy, consider, for those of you who remember the al Qaeda attacks against New York City and Washington D.C. on September 11, 2001, what it felt like for America to lose 2,977 individuals in one day due to the terror attacks. Our country had a population of 285 million at the time of the 9/11 attacks, and the loss of 2,977 left gaping holes in the fabric of our individual, community,

and national lives. There was scarcely a soul who did not know someone who perished or was connected to someone who lived or worked in the places attacked by terrorists. Today, Ukraine has a population of 44 million people, and they are experiencing the equivalent of a 9/11 attack every morning, every afternoon, every evening, every single day, every single week, every single month since the Russian invasion.

Think about that. Every morning, a family in Ukraine has to wonder if their 18 year-old daughter who works at a nail salon to help buy food will safely make it to work and home without being killed by an Iranian Shahed explosive drone being used by Russia. Every afternoon, a child care worker has to wonder if they and the children in their building will be spared from the strike of a Russian Novator SS-N-27 Sizzler cruise missile which has a high explosive warhead powerful enough to flatten their building with one strike and leave no human survivors or traces of their remains. Every evening, a wife prays for her husband, who works in a hospital, to come home safely, lest he be killed by bombs dropped from high altitude by a Russian Su-34 tactical fighter bomber. Now repeat this week after week, month after month, and, God forbid, year after year. How can anyone live like that?

This is not a bug or glitch of the way Russia conducts war, it is a historical pattern. The reason we want to designate February 24 as "Remember Ukraine Day" is so that our people can learn from these events and be inspired not only to stand with the people of Ukraine, but to resist the forces of tyranny *both* abroad *and* at home, because the direction of all megalomania, the end destination of all political narcissism, the trajectory of all fascism always ends in war against all. Russia must be stopped. Putin must be shamed (as well as those who idealize him here in the United States of America and the West) and Ukraine must be helped until this war is won. Until that day happens, our responsibility is to talk about it to each other, remember the barbaric war crimes being committed, and do everything in our righteous might to see this never happens again.

Please pass this measure. I urge you to do this so that we can set an example for the world to follow. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

URGING THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE AGAINST RUSSIAN AGGRESSION BY DECLARING FEBRUARY 24, 2023, "REMEMBER UKRAINE DAY" IN HAWAII

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, the military forces of Russia under the command of President Vladimir Putin attacked the peaceful neighboring country of Ukraine with an unprovoked invasion with the aim of undermining both the freedom of the Ukrainian people and subverting global movements for democracy; and

WHEREAS, as a Union committed to the values of human rights, human dignity, and human progress, we are deeply moved and concerned about the people of Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that Russia has also attacked the United States of America by interfering in U.S. domestic politics to stir unrest, discord, and electoral strife, and that even in Hawaii, we are not detached from the effects of Russia's unchecked aspirations for subverting freedom; and

WHEREAS, the military conflict that is raging in Ukraine affects us all and represents a symbolic conflict between democracy or tyranny, and we must all stand with our brothers and sisters who are fighting for democracy; NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 HGEA/AFSCME General Assembly urge the Hawaii State Legislature to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine against Russian aggression by declaring February 24, 2023, "Remember Ukraine Day" in Hawaii as an opportunity to reflect upon the ongoing conflict and to pray for peace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this day shall not be construed as an official state holiday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Speaker of the Hawaii State House of Representatives, the President of the Hawaii State Senate, the Governor of the State of Hawaii, and the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawaii.

SUBMITTED BY: Danny de Gracia (Unit 13)

Charter, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee recommends adoption Yes No

General Assembly adoption Yes No

HCR-16-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2023 3:09:45 PM

Testimony for TCA on 4/13/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** this Resolution that would commemorate a corrupt foreign Nation. We need to put HAWAII FIRST and stop with this toxic virtue signaling nonsense.